

Morgan Co. ATC and Local Community Team to Provide Park with a New Grill

In true community spirit, Morgan Co. Area Technology Center students have completed a joint project with their local tourism committee by constructing a large grill for use in West Liberty's Old Mill Park.

The idea came from a similar grill seen in use at fairs in South Carolina by a local couple. They liked what they saw and approached the tourism commission about the possibility of constructing a similar version of the grill in the local park.

Upon acceptance of the idea for this project, the commission appointed member and retired mechanical engineer Stanley Benton to head the project. Eddie Tharp of Mega Masonry was retained to complete the blocked portion of the grill.

In addition to Benton and Tharp, students from the ATC's information technology (IT), computer aided drafting (CAD) and welding classes joined in to create, develop and complete the project.

The IT students did quite a bit of research on the Internet to find a replica of the version seen in South Carolina. With funds provided by the tourism committee,



Members of the Morgan Co. Tourism Committee and ATC students stand with the finished grill.

the computer aided drafting class drew up the plans for the grill. Everything was in place except for the metal grill section and fire bed supports. That's where the expertise of the welding students came into the picture. They were responsible for welding the needed pieces together to finish the grill. The completion of the grill project just happened to be in time for the Sorghum Festival held every year in West Liberty.



“Not only did our students gain valuable experience in researching a project, it gave them a chance to see students in other program areas at work,” says Morgan Co. ATC Principal Bob Martin. “By working on a project of this magnitude, our students gained the respect of community leaders and business members, while at the same time receiving accolades from individuals across the community.

“The grill dimensions are 17’ long and 40” wide,” says Morgan Co. Welding Instructor Scott Linkous. “This was a big project for our students and they did an outstanding job in building a grill that will provide many years of service for the community. It’s something they can take pride in because they know they had a hand in building a community project that will get a lot of use.”

“We believe this project will open doors in developing additional partnership opportunities with business and industry representatives in Morgan and the surrounding counties,” said Martin. “We are ready for the next project to begin.”